

toward storage pathway 234. Other storage walls 230-233 are possible including more or less than the number shown, and in different positions. Generally it is desirable to provide sufficient structure to position all of the cables desiring storage within the storage pathway 234, without going below the minimum bending radius of the cable. Instead of exiting trough 200 at exit trough portion 220, cable 252 can pass through to pathway 205.

Referring now to FIGS. 7-9, trough 300 includes a first end 302, and an opposite end 304. A bottom 306 includes upwardly extending sides 308, 309, 310, 311 to define an enlarged central portion 312. A central bypass pathway 314 links end pathways 303 and 305. Side openings 320, 321 form two cable exit trough portions 316, 318 on opposite sides of central bypass pathway 314. Upwardly extending separator walls 322, 324 separate each exit trough portion 316, 318 from central bypass portion 314. Separator walls 322, 324 are generally planar as shown in FIG. 9. Separator walls 322, 324 each create an exit pathways 330, 332, respectively for cable from pathways 303, 305. Exit trough portion 316 includes two downwardly curved bottom surface portions 325, 326. Exit trough portion 318 includes two downwardly curved trough portions 327, 328. Ends 302, 304 are connectable to other cable routing components, as desired. Curved sides 308-311 and the curved surfaces of each exit trough portion 316, 318 protect the cables from going below the minimum bending radius. Trough 300 also includes cable access gaps 340, 342 in the upstanding sidewalls adjacent to exit trough portions 316, 318.

Cables can pass through trough 300 from end 302 to end 304 through central bypass pathway 314, or one or more cables can exit downwardly through one of exit trough portions 316, 318. The enlarged central portion 312 helps avoid overly compacting the cables which bypass through trough 300, and do not exit through exit trough portions 316, 318.

While troughs 100, 200, 300 are usable with optical fiber cables, copper cables may also be routed through troughs 100, 200, 300 simultaneously with the optical fiber cables. In that case the dual bypass pathways of troughs 100, 200, and the dual exit trough portions 316, 318 of trough 300 can be used to segregate the cables, as desired.

Having described the present invention in a preferred embodiment, modifications and equivalents may occur to one skilled in the art. It is intended that such modifications and equivalents shall be included within the scope of the claims which are appended hereto.

What is claimed is:

1. A cable trough comprising:

a bottom portion;

two upstanding sides extending from the bottom portion to define a cable pathway;

the cable trough having first and second opposed ends and a central portion disposed therebetween, the upstanding sides spaced further apart from each other in the central portion than on each end to define an enlarged central portion of the cable trough;

the enlarged central portion of the cable trough including a downwardly extending, central exit trough portion through the bottom portion;

two upstanding separator walls extending upwardly from the bottom portion, each separator wall positioned on opposite sides of the central exit trough portion, each separator wall laterally spaced from the respective sides to each define a cable bypass pathway between the first and second ends.

2. The cable trough of claim 1, further comprising at least one upwardly extending cable storage wall adjacent to the exit trough portion defining a cable storage pathway between the cable storage wall and at least one of the separator walls.

3. The cable trough of claim 1, further comprising a component support flange extending inwardly from one of the upstanding sides in a direction toward the other side, and an optical fiber cable component mounted to the component support flange.

4. A cable trough comprising:

a bottom portion;

two upstanding sides extending from the bottom portion to define a cable pathway;

the cable trough having first and second opposed ends and a central portion disposed therebetween, the upstanding

sides spaced further apart from each other in the central portion than on each end to define an enlarged central portion of the cable trough;

the enlarged central portion of the cable trough including two downwardly extending side exit trough portions through the bottom portion;

two upstanding separator walls extending upwardly from the bottom portion, one separator wall positioned adjacent to each exit trough portion, each separator wall positioned on opposite sides of the bottom portion, each separator wall laterally spaced from each other to each define a central cable bypass pathway between the first and second ends.

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